

**APPLICATION
FOR
UNITED STATES PATENT**

TITLE: CUTTING EDGE FOR DISPENSER CARTONS
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CUTTING EDGE FOR DISPENSER CARTONS

Background

This invention relates to a process for forming a cutting edge on corrugated or fiber board boxes. In one aspect, the invention is directed to a method of forming a container blank (e.g., carton blank or box blank) and container formed therefrom, the container having a novel cutting edge formed of a polymeric tape. The cutting edge is formed of a polymeric material adhered to a container blank, and serves to cut lengths of web material from convolutely wound rolls of film, paper or foil products, disposed in the container.

Rectangular dispensing cartons are often used by consumers to dispense a roll of sheet material and are often capable of severing the sheet material at a desired length. The cartons generally have a cutter on an edge of the front panel or on the distal end of the lid to aid in cutting the sheet material. The cutter is formed with a saw-toothed edge to guide the cut across the width of the sheet material.

Examples of cutting edges include saw-toothed or serrated edges formed from metal (as shown in EP 352634 A dated 19900131, US 5,078,311), carton board impregnated with resin (WO 9635574 A2), and carton reinforced with plastic or vulcanized fiber materials (JP 8309890 A dated 19950522). US Patent No. 6,173,876, Sano et al. discloses a dispenser carton having a serrated cutting edge.

SUMMARY

The present invention provides a cutting edge formed of a tape for use with cartons. The cutting edge is adhered to container board, e.g., corrugated container board or box board, that is converted to blanks that are used to form cartons for holding convolutely wound wrapping materials and dispensing the same. The cutting edge includes a tape adhered to the board through an adhesive. The tape and board are die cut during the manufacture of the carton blank. During the die cutting process the tape backing, the adhesive and the container board are cut along a score line of the carton blank to form cut lines on opposite sides of the score line. The cut-lines define teeth. The teeth are generally triangular in shape and are formed by V-shaped cuts. The bases of the triangle, i.e., open end of the "V", are adjacent the score line and are staggered relative to each other.

In the carton forming process a tape that includes a backing coated with an adhesive is contacted with the carton board. In the case of the corrugated container

board, the tape that forms part of the cutting edge is incorporated into the carton blank during the process of forming the corrugated container board. In one corrugated board embodiment, the tape is contacted with a first substrate, e.g., the inside surface of the substrate that will form the outside liner of the corrugated board. In this

5 embodiment, the tape adhered to the corrugated board includes an adhesive composition on both sides of the tape backing. A second substrate, e.g., a laminate of corrugated or fluted paper stock adhered to an inside liner, is brought into contact with the inside surface of the outside liner and the adhesive on the tape. The four layers are laminated as they are heated and pressed together in a nip area.

10 Heat and pressure present in the corrugating process activates the adhesive on the tape and bonds the tape backing to the components of the corrugated container board with which it is in contact. A starch adhesive, as is commonly used in the construction of corrugated boards, is activated by heat and pressure to bond the fluted medium to the inside surfaces of the inside liner and the outside liner of the

15 corrugated board.

 In another corrugated board embodiment, the tape is contacted with the outside surface of corrugated container board. In this case there is adhesive on only one side of the tape backing.

 The finished web of corrugated container board is then passed through a

20 cutter, which cuts the web into sheets. The sheets are then fed into a die cutter, which cuts each sheet to the form of a container blank and forms the score lines that define the panels of a container (e.g., a carton or a box). A die cutter also forms cut-lines in the blank in the area of the tape. The cut-lines define intersecting cuts, which define individual teeth on each side of a score line. The teeth are "V-shaped" with a pointed

25 end and the wide area of each tooth is adjacent and on opposite sides of the score line. The cut lines on one side of the score line do not intersect or communicate with the cut-lines on the opposite side of the score line. The teeth are spaced along the score line such that the cut lines do not intersect or communicate with the cut-lines of adjacent teeth on the same side of the score line. The blank so formed is then ready to

30 be shipped to a customer who then folds the blank to form the container. The folding of the blank raises the teeth from the blank thereby forming a cutting edge.

 In the container forming process that employs box board (e.g., a sheet of box board or a web of box board), a tape is adhered to the box board (e.g., the exterior of the board, interior of the board, or a combination thereof). The board is then fed into

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a die cutter, which cuts the board to the form of a container blank and forms the score lines that define the panels of the box. A die cutter also forms cut-lines in the blank in the area of the tape. The cut-lines define intersecting cuts, which define individual teeth on each side of a score line. The teeth are "V-shaped" with a pointed end and the wide area of each tooth is adjacent and on opposite sides of the score line. The cut lines on one side of the score line do not intersect or communicate with the cut-lines on the opposite side of the score line. The teeth are spaced along the score line such that the cut lines do not intersect or communicate with the cut-lines of adjacent teeth on the same side of the score line. The blank so formed is then ready to be shipped to a customer who then folds the blank to form the box. The folding of the blank along the score line running congruent with a center line of the tape raises the teeth from the blank thereby forming a cutting edge.

The method of forming the cutting teeth on the carton includes applying a length of tape to the board from which the carton will be made, adhering the length of tape to the board (e.g., the exterior surface of the board, the interior surface of the board or a combination thereof), and die cutting the tape, adhesive and board to form triangular-shaped teeth in the tape on opposite sides of a fold line in the carton blank formed from the board.

The tape includes a polymeric film backing selected from the group of polymeric films including, e.g., polyester, polypropylene, polyethylene and polymeric materials having strength sufficient to support the cutting function. Preferably the backing is polyester.

Other features and advantages will be apparent from the following description of the preferred embodiments and from the claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be further described with reference to the accompanying drawing wherein:

Figure 1 is a schematic view of the blank forming machine for container board blanks;

Figure 2 is a rear elevational view of the blank formed according to Figure 1 and showing the present invention;

Figure 3 is an enlarged view showing the design of the cuts forming the teeth;

Figure 4 is an elevational view of the tape with the cut-line pattern;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of a tape being folded along an imaginary fold line or score line to illustrate the teeth separating from the remainder of the tape;

Figure 6 is a perspective view of a tape illustrating the tape folded upon itself and the teeth sticking straight in the plane of the tape halves;

Figure 7 is a perspective view of a corrugated dispensing box formed according to the present invention from the blank of Figure 2;

Figure 8 is a cross sectional view of the cutting edge on the box of Figure 7;

Figure 9 is a cross sectional view of a cutting edge according to the present invention formed on an edge of a carton; and

Figure 10 is a cross sectional view of a cutting edge according to the present invention formed on the lower front edge of a carton.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present invention provides a cutting edge formed by a polymeric tape adhered to containers (e.g., cartons or boxes) for dispensing a web and severing the web into a sheet including, e.g., polymeric wrapping film, paper (including e.g., waxed paper), metal wrapping foil and combinations thereof.

Referring now to the drawings, Figure 1 illustrates, schematically, a process of forming a corrugated box blank that includes applying a tape to a board. As the substrate forming the outside liner 7 is fed into the machine, a tape 8 is brought into contact with the liner 7. The liner 7 is typically a paper facing. The tape 8 includes a polymeric backing 10, preferably coated on one or both sides with an adhesive 9, preferably a hot melt adhesive.

For use in the present invention, the polymeric backing 10 is formed of polyester, polypropylene, polyethylene or similar polymeric material having sufficient strength to support the cutting function. Preferably the polymeric backing is polyester. The backing is heat resistant between about 160°F (71°C) and about 350°F (177°C), preferably at least 250°F (121°C). The backing 10 has a thickness between 2 mils (0.05mm) and 7 mils (0.18mm), preferably 4 mils (0.1 mm), with a width of 0.5 inch (0.60cm) to 1.25 inches (3.2 cm).

Suitable adhesives 9 include, e.g., pressure sensitive adhesives and hot melt adhesives. The hot melt adhesive can be any typical hot melt adhesive or hot melt pressure-sensitive adhesive such as an ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer-based hot melt adhesive, a metallocene-based hot melt pressure-sensitive adhesive such as those comprising at least one homogeneous linear or substantially linear interpolymer of

ethylene and at least one C₃ to C₂₀ alpha-olefin, ethylene methacrylate-based hot melt and hot melt pressure-sensitive adhesive, ethylene n-butyl acrylate-based hot melt adhesive, hot melt adhesives based on polyethylene and polypropylene homopolymers, copolymers and interpolymers, and rubbery block copolymer hot melt adhesives. In general, if ethylene-vinyl acetate-based hot melt adhesives are used, they typically comprise about 15 % to about 40 % ethylene-vinyl acetate, about 10 % to about 35 % wax, about 20 % to about 40 % resin, and about 0.2 % to about 0.4 % anti-oxidant. These adhesives exhibit good adhesion to the carton board.

The backing 10 can be treated to improve its adhesion to the adhesives. The adhesive can be adhered to either side of the board. When the adhesive tape is incorporated inside a corrugated board, as illustrated in Figure 1, both sides of the tape backing will be coated with adhesive 9.

As the tape 8 is brought into contact with the liner 7 under an applying roller 11, the tape 8 is placed on the inside of the liner 7.

The next step is to bring a web 12 into contact with the tape 8 and the liner 7. This is done between nip rollers 14 and 15. The web 12 includes an inside liner 16 and a corrugated or fluted paper medium 17 adhered to the inside liner 16. This laminated construction continues down the processing line. The hot melt adhesive 9 that adheres the tape 8 to the outside liner 7 and to the fluted medium 17 is activated in the presence of heat 18 and nip rollers 19 and 20. The starch adhesive 23 that adheres the fluted medium 17 to the outside liner 7 is also activated in the presence of heat 18 and nip rollers 19 and 20. The resulting corrugated board then moves to a guillotine-like cutting knife 21, which cuts the web into sheets 24.

Alternatively, the tape can be applied to a sheet (i.e., after the web is cut into a sheet) by a tape applicator of the type disclosed in co-pending application Serial No. 09/703,968 filed November 1, 2000, entitled, "Web Material Advance System for Web Material Applicator," the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

The sheets 24, now illustrated as rotated 90° in Figure 1, are then conveyed into a die cutter die 26 having two rows of cutting knives 27 and 28. The die cutter 26 cuts the sheets 24 into blanks 25. In the die cutter 26 the sheets 24 are cut into the form of a blank 25 for a container. A blank 25 is illustrated in Figure 2. The two rows of cutting knives 27 and 28 form cuts in the sheet 24 in the area of the tape 8 to cut a plurality of transverse slits along the length of the tape 8 and adjacent a score

line 33. The cuts form cut-lines 30 in the container board and the tape 8. Pairs of cut-lines form a triangular area defining a tooth having a point and a base. The cut-lines form teeth 31 on opposing sides of an imaginary line extending lengthwise of the tape and board. The imaginary line is congruent with a score line 33 and the cut-lines forming each tooth 31 are spaced from other cut-lines forming other teeth 31 along the score line 33. The teeth 31 are formed on opposite sides of the line with the base of the teeth adjacent the score line 33. The teeth on opposite sides of the line are staggered.

The illustrated box blank 25 in Figure 2 is a plan view of the inside of the container and includes the bottom panel 35 and sides walls 36 and 38. Side wall 38 forms the front panel. The front panel is joined to a reinforcing panel 39 at the score line 33. A lid 40 and closing flap 41 are joined to the rear panel 36 at score lines. The ends of the carton are formed by end flaps 42 and 44, which are folded upon themselves, with flap 42 being folded in alignment with and after flaps 45 are folded on adjoining score lines into alignment with flap 44.

The cut-lines 30 and the individual teeth 31 are illustrated in Figures 3 - 6. The teeth 31 are formed with the base of the triangular shaped teeth adjacent the center or imaginary line 54 along the length of the tape 8. The cut-lines 30 generally do not cross the imaginary line, but cut-lines extending across the line, or score line, do not alter the effectiveness of the teeth. The dimensions of the teeth, and their spacing, can vary as required by the product being dispensed from the container. In one example, the width 50 of the base of the teeth 31 is 0.07 inch (1.77mm). The height 51 of the teeth is generally 0.05 inch (1.27mm). The teeth are spaced a distance 52, of 0.05 inch (1.27mm) and are staggered in relationship to the imaginary line 54 as illustrated.

When the tape 8 is folded along the line 54, as indicated in Figures 5 and 6, the teeth 31 are raised out of the cut areas defined by the cut lines and project in the plane of the tape to which they are attached. As the carton is folded, portions of the laminate in the area of the teeth may delaminate such that the teeth 31 that form the cutting edge include one or more layers of the laminate construction including, e.g., the tape backing 10, the adhesive layer 9, at least a portion of the carton board, or a combination thereof.

The folded box 55 from blank 25 is shown in Figure 7. The folding of the panel 39 about the score line 33 causes the folding of the tape 8 and the virtual teeth

defined by the cut-lines 30 to separate from the tape 8 and break through the outside
liner 7 to form a cutting edge 56 along the top edge of the front panel 38. A cross
section of this fold is illustrated in Figure 8. Although not to scale, it is seen that the
tape 8 will tear along the score line to form teeth that break through the liner 7 to an
erect position along the top of the front panel.

The teeth are also useful on carton board for packages of wrapping material.
If the fluted material is not added, the tape 8 is coated with the adhesive 9 on only one
side and is adhered to the carton board or fiber board 59, as shown in Figure 9. The
teeth 31 are die cut as shown in Figures 3-6 and the blank, similar to the blank 25 is
folded with the tape on the outside of the panel 38 and form a cutting edge 60 as
illustrated in Figure 9. This is similar to the cutting edge shown in Figure 6.

Alternatively, the tape 8 can be placed over an edge of the blank, e.g. over a
score line between panels 35 and 38 and when the box is formed, the teeth 31 separate
from the tape 8 along the cut-lines and form a cutting edge 65, as illustrated in Figure
10. The teeth will extend from the tape as illustrated in Figure 5.

Having disclosed the present invention and equivalents thereof, it is to be
understood that other changes can be made there in without departing from the spirit
and scope of the invention claimed in the appended claims.

What is claimed: